

Aujeszky's disease (pseudorabies)



outbreak alert

630.4
C212
P 1791
1988
OOAg
c.3



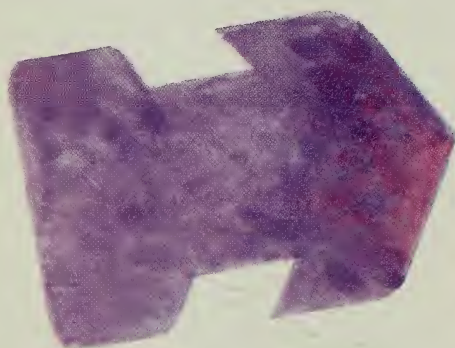
AUJESZKY'S DISEASE (PSEUDORABIES)

Aujeszky's disease is an infectious foreign viral disease that affects most warm-blooded mammals except people. Swine are its natural hosts and outbreaks are common in many countries with extensive swine production. The disease kills numerous young pigs and causes reproductive problems in sows. Animals other than pigs, when infected with Aujeszky's disease, exhibit such symptoms as severe itching and self-mutilation and die quickly. This behaviour prompted the term "pseudorabies". There is no vaccine or treatment.

Incidents of Aujeszky's disease in swine-producing countries are expensive. Outbreaks in the United States cost the American economy nearly \$34 billion each year in lost revenue and measures to control and stamp out the disease. Canada is one of the few countries that has remained free from Aujeszky's disease but there is a constant risk that it could be introduced. To keep Canada free, the public must cooperate. Read this leaflet carefully and learn what *you* can do to prevent Aujeszky's disease from endangering Canada's swine industry.

History

Aujeszky's disease occurs in many countries of Europe, Asia, Africa and North and South America. The disease has not occurred in Canada, although the United States has experienced sporadic outbreaks since 1931.



How Aujeszky's disease is spread

Aujeszky's disease can be introduced into a healthy herd of swine by:

- an infected carrier animal that shows no signs of illness;
- contact between infected and susceptible pigs;
- contaminated clothing, footwear or equipment; and
- meat products, although this is unusual.

Infected swine generally shed the virus for about 3 weeks. However, a small proportion become carriers for life and shed virus periodically when under stress.

Animals other than swine can contract the disease by:

- contact with infected swine;
- contact with dead pigs, aborted fetuses and fetal membranes.

Other species die very rapidly when infected and only shed the virus for 1 or 2 days.

If an outbreak should occur in Canada

In the event of an outbreak, Agriculture Canada has developed an emergency program to protect our economy and the health of our livestock. Infected farms will be quarantined and all infected and exposed swine slaughtered to prevent further spread. Farmers will be compensated for the loss of their animals. Infected farms will be cleaned and disinfected and a control area established around them. One month after cleaning and disinfection, premises will be restocked with "sentinel" pigs to determine whether the virus has been destroyed.

Signs of Aujeszky's disease: what to look for

In animals other than swine, severe itching, self-mutilation and rapid death are signs of Aujeszky's disease. Swine show different symptoms depending on age, because they become more resistant as they grow older.

Nursing piglets may become depressed, develop high fever, refuse to drink, and show nervous signs such as trembling, staggering and convulsions. Entire litters may die rapidly.

Weaner pigs show the same signs as nursing piglets except that fewer die. They may also cough and sneeze, and develop conjunctivitis.

Feeders and adult pigs also show the same signs, although deaths are infrequent. Sows may have reproductive problems such as abortions and stillbirths, and their entire litters may die 1 or 2 days after birth.

If an outbreak is suspected, veterinarians take blood samples from all livestock to determine which animals have been exposed. Because the virus may resemble others, laboratory diagnosis is essential.



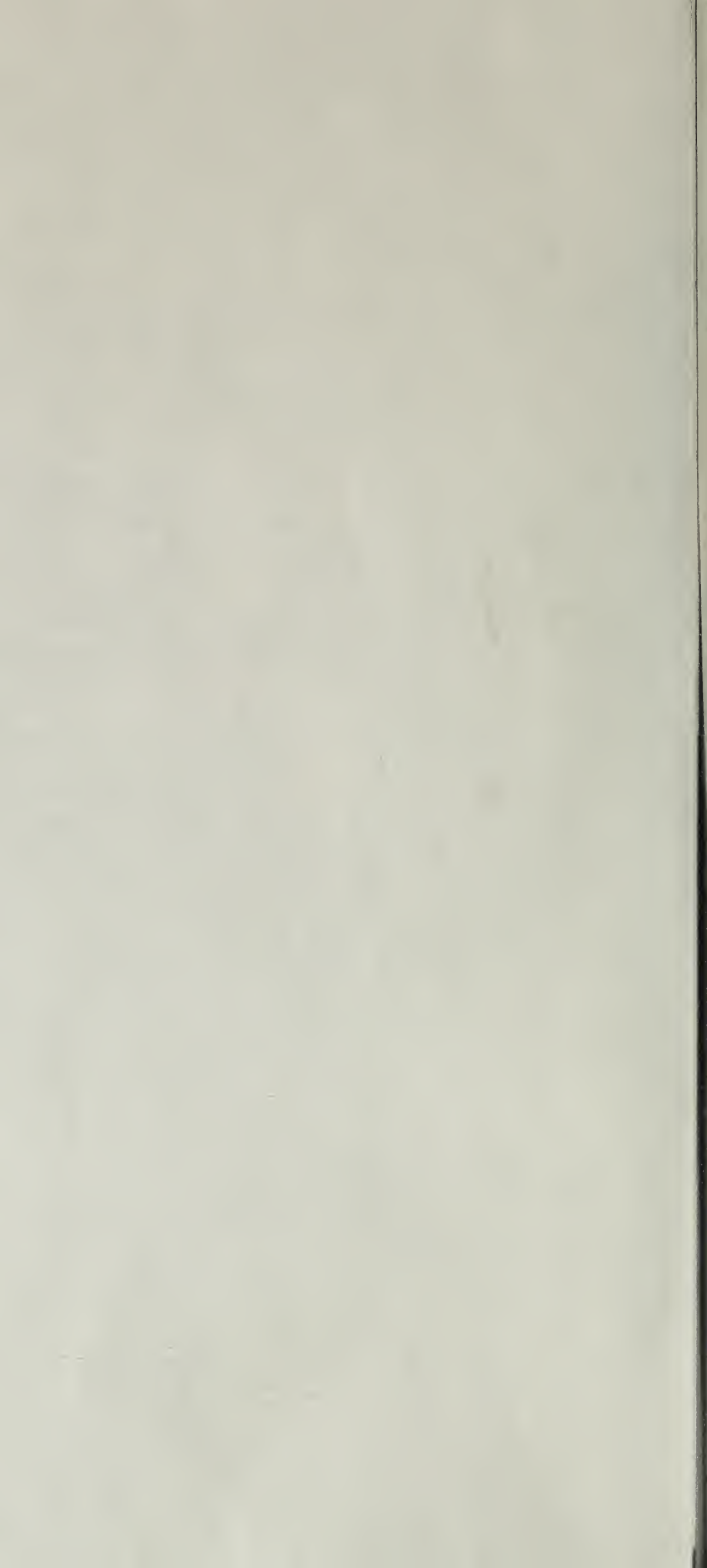
Affected pigs may begin staggering.



The animals become depressed, feverish and refuse to eat and drink.

Prevention

To prevent Aujeszky's disease from entering Canada, choose swine carefully when importing from countries where the disease is known to exist. The animals will be quarantined for 30 days and tested to ensure they are healthy. Travellers entering Canada may carry agents of the disease on their clothing and footwear if they visited an infected farm while abroad. Customs officials and travellers must be alert to this possibility.



What YOU can do

When travelling:

- Don't bring pork products back from countries where sick pigs have been found.
- If you visit a farm while abroad, make sure that clothing and footwear you wear on the farm are free from soil and manure before entering Canada.
- If you visit a farm while abroad, do not go near Canadian livestock for 14 days.

On your farm:

- Be alert to abnormal conditions in your herds.
- Should you notice the symptoms in your livestock, contact your veterinarian or notify Agriculture Canada. By law, you must report suspect cases. It's your moral obligation to Canada's swine industry.
- Don't let people, animals, vehicles and equipment enter or leave your farm until a veterinarian has examined your livestock.

For more information, contact:

Animal Health Division

Agriculture Canada

2255 Carling Avenue

Ottawa K1A 0Y9

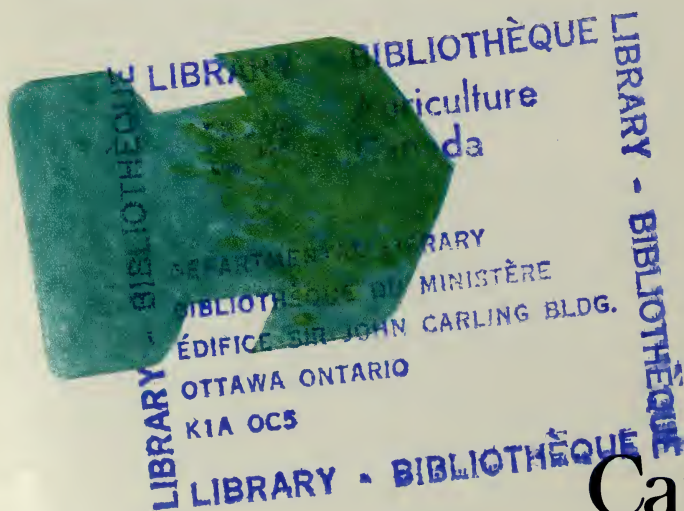
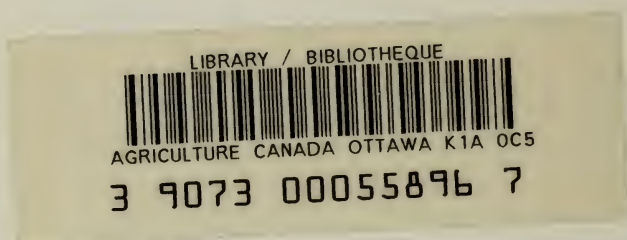
Telephone: (613) 995-5433

or the nearest Agriculture Canada veterinary inspection office.

PUBLICATION 1791/E, available from
Communications Branch, Agriculture Canada,
Ottawa K1A 0C7

©Minister of Supply and Services Canada 1988
Cat. No. A43-1791/1988E ISBN: 0-662-15821-0
Printed 1985 Revised 1988 10 M-1:88

Également disponible en français sous le titre
La maladie d'Aujeszky (pseudorage).



Canada 